

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: October 7, 1998

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: ECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS, Project No. 8024

to: Thomas C. McKinney – NEPA Compliance Officer

Proposed Action: Hood River Fish Habitat Projects

Budget No.: F5048

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.9 Structural bank protection using bioengineering methods, 1.10 Structural bank protection using engineered structures, 1.15 Fish passage enhancement – fishways, 1.16 Spawning habitat enhancement, 1.17 Rearing habitat enhancement, 2.1 Maintain healthy riparian plant communities, 2.2 Plant/protect conifers in riparian areas for thermal covers, 2.7 Avoid exotic species, 2.11 Hand pulling, 2.14 Enhance large woody debris recruitment, 4.1 Irrigation water management, 4.10 Water conveyance: pipeline, 4.23 Intake and return diversion screens, 4.25 Consolidate/replace irrigation diversion dams, 5.1 Heavy use area protection, 5.11 Hardened fords for livestock crossings of streams, 5.13 Alternative water sources, 6.2 Planned grazing system, 6.3 Control grazing intensity, 6.7 Water supply: trough, 6.10 Access: fencing, 6.11 Access: trails/fords at stream crossings, 6.14 Vegetation stabilization: critical area planting.

Location: Hood River County, Oregon. Hood River Basin.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWSRO), Middle Fork Irrigation District, and private landowners.

Description of the Proposed Action: There are three separate projects included in this analysis. The first is the Evans Creek Fish Passage Project (T1S, R10E, Sect. 6, 7). This project includes purchasing 4300 ft. of 24-inch irrigation pipe, building a pressure reducer station, and connecting the irrigation pipeline with an existing pressurized pipeline system. Upon completion of the pipeline, the Middle Fork Irrigation District has agreed to remove the dam boards at the Evans Creek diversion and cap the intake pipe.

The Tony Creek Fish Passage Project (T1N, R9E, Sect. 25) would eliminate a concrete apron and stop logs at the Tony Creek diversion dam. Large boulders, root wads, and log placements will be used to catch gravel if stabilization of the streambed, upstream from the dam, is necessary to reduce scouring of the channel.

There are two Neal Creek Fencing Projects (T2N, R10E, Sect. 24N and Sect. 24S), one on the Meyers property and one on the Guisto Property. These two projects involve constructing a

riparian fence and placing rip-rap on eroded bank areas to stabilize and improve the riparian zone on Neal Creek.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by CTWSRO and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

Section 7 consultation was conducted with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under the requirements of the Endangered Species Act (Act). Of concern to the USFWS were the potential impacts from proposed project construction activities to bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) (threatened), listed on June 10, 1998, peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) (endangered), northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) (threatened), and bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) (threatened). Of concern to the NMFS were the potential impacts from proposed project construction activities to Lower Columbia River (LCR) Steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) (threatened). As a result, The J.D. White Company, Inc. developed a biological assessment for these projects as they affect bull trout, peregrine falcon, northern spotted owl, bald eagle, and LCR Steelhead trout. The USFWS concurred on October 7, 1998, that these projects “may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect” the bull trout, peregrine falcon, northern spotted owl, and bald eagle. The NMFS concurred on September 9, 1998; that the proposed action is likely to have a long-term beneficial effect on listed LCR steelhead trout.

A Cultural Resources Survey was conducted on Neal and Evans Creeks fish projects by the Archaeological and Historical Services of Eastern Washington University on August 18, 1998. No cultural resources were observed or discovered. In the unlikely event that cultural resources are encountered during project activities, work should be halted in the immediate vicinity of the resources and a qualified archaeologist should be notified.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.4L.1, 7.4L.2, 7.4N.1, 7.4N.2, 7.6A (A11), 7.6B (A11), 7.6C.1, 7.6C.2, 6.6C.5, 7.6D, 7.7A.1, 7.8A. (A11), 7.8D.1, 7.8F.2, 7.8G.1, 7.10A.2, 7.10A.5, 7.10A.7, and 7.10K.1 of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. The attached Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and; 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

Eric N. Powers
Environmental Project Lead
Environment, Fish and Wildlife Group

Concur:

Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: _____

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist
Biological Assessment
Cultural Resources Report from AHS
USFWS Concurrence Letter on BA
NMFS Concurrence Letter on BA

cc:

B. Beraud - EC-4

L. Croff - ECP-4

N. Weintraub - ECN-4

T. Moorse - EWN-4

M. Shaw - EWP-4

P. Key - LN-7

M. Lambert - CTWSRO

Official File - ECN (EQ-15)

Epowers:enp:x5823: 10/07/98 (w:ecm\ecm98\eq-15\suppanal\hoodriver.doc)